

Listing of claims:

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application,
with an indication of the status of each:

1-24 (Canceled).

- 1 25. (Currently Amended) A vessel agitator, comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of vessel holders, each of said plurality of vessel
 - 3 holders constructed and arranged for removably holding a vessel;
 - 4 a vessel conveyor constructed and arranged to move that
 - 5 moves said plurality of vessel holders along a path having at least one
 - 6 substantially linear section; and
 - 7 a vessel contact agitator constructed and arranged such that
 - 8 when a vessel is held by at least one of said plurality of vessel holders,
 - 9 and is conveyed by said vessel conveyor along said path, said vessel
 - 10 contact agitator contacts said vessel at a plurality of contact locations
 - 11 along said path in a manner that displaces said vessel at each contact
 - 12 location in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the path at that
 - 13 contact location, wherein
 - 14 said vessel conveyor is constructed and arranged to move said
 - 15 at least one vessel holder such that said vessel contacts at least one of
 - 16 said plurality of contact locations of said vessel contact agitator a
 - 17 selectable number of times.
- 1 26. (Currently Amended) The vessel agitator of claim 25 wherein the
- 2 vessel contact agitator includes a plurality of at least three projections,
- 3 each located at a corresponding one of said contact locations, and a
- 4 includes a plurality of at least three troughs, each located at a
- 5 corresponding one of said contact locations, said projections and
- 6 troughs being constructed and arranged such that each of said

- 7 projections displaces said vessel in a first direction perpendicular to the
8 path at the projection's location of projection, and such that each of
9 said troughs displaces said vessel in a direction perpendicular to the
10 path at the trough's location, and substantially opposite to the direction
11 that projections adjacent to the trough displace said vessel.
- 1 27. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the
2 spacing differs between different adjacent ones of said projection
3 locations.
- 1 28. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the
2 spacing differs between different adjacent ones of said trough
3 locations.
- 1 29. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the
2 spacing is the same between different adjacent ones of said projection
3 locations, such that the vessel is agitated in a periodic manner while
4 being conveyed.
- 1 30. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein
2 said vessel conveyor comprises a first rotatable wheel, a second
3 rotatable wheel, and an endless belt engaged with said first rotatable
4 wheel and second rotatable wheel, wherein said vessel holders are
5 attached to said endless belt.
- 1 31. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein said conveyor is
2 constructed and arranged such that said vessel travels in the same
3 direction each time it contacts said at least one of said plurality of
4 contact locations of said vessel contact agitator.

- 1 32. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein said conveyor is
 - 2 constructed and arranged to be moving said vessel in a first direction
 - 3 along said path when it makes a first contact with said at least one of
 - 4 said plurality of contact locations and be moving said vessel in a
 - 5 direction opposite said first direction second when it makes a
 - 6 subsequent contact with said at least one of said plurality of contact
 - 7 locations.
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- 1 33. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein at least one of said
 - 2 vessel holders is a U-shaped structure.
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- 1 34. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 31, wherein at least one of said
 - 2 vessel holders is a U-shaped structure.
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- 1 35. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 32, wherein at least one of said
 - 2 vessel holders is a U-shaped structure.